1767

St. James's Place March 13th.

Dear Hamilton.

I congratulate you in the first place on Your additional Income, which all your Friends here who could or could not promote it, are very glad of. I hope it will enable you to put Parmesan enough to your Maccaroni, & herbs enough into your Soups, for the entertainment of the numerous body of your Countrymen now at Naples. — I almost envy you the frequent visits to your great Neighbour tho' He continues so furious & troublesome. If Naples is really soon to follow the example of Herculaneum, I hope You will at least have interest enough to put your Family & Etruscan Vases on board an English Ship, & come safe to your own Country in Time. — What an Idea of a Monarch do you give me taking the reins of Government into his hands! If I was a discontented Republican, perhaps I could match your description in another Kingdom. But You have been more behind the Curtain there than I have. — By the by, I dare say You want no hints of that sort to be suggested to you, — but should you not contrive to give his Majty some idea of your *Etrusque* & dedicate to him if He will permit? or suppose You were to send over a drawing of your Tuscan Chariott? I dare say

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it would find Admirers & Imitators in abundance.
But I leave You to your own schemes about
those Affairs, & proceed to Chit Chat.— Our Christmass
Party at Althorp succeeded very well à l'ordinaire.
His R. H. was with us above a week: Gambling
flourish'd much, but so much Snow fell that
there was almost as little Hunting as You
remember some years ago. Then to make up for
that, Catch Singing is grown quite a Science
& there were three or four able Professors in
it at Althorp together. Neither L. or Lady S.
were so well this winter as I could wish them;
And She was unlucky enough to get a
black eye by a fall from a Horse, which
confin'd her for some time. They both went
to Bath yesterday to stay a Month or 5 weeks,
and as Ld S. thought the Waters did him
good some time ago I hope he will find the
same effect from them now. At Easter they
propose to adjourn to Farming Woods, & soon
after to go to Spa for 2 or 3 months.—As
to public matters, the Land Tax at 3 shillings
in the pound was lately voted against the
Government, by which means They will certainly
be much distress'd how to supply the five
hundred thousand pounds now wanting for the
public Service. It was thought this affair would
have overturn'd the present administration, but
the general Idea seems now to be that They
will be able to settle the East India Companys
business in such a manner as to supply the
funds wanting for Government, & consequently preserve

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their own power. The D. of Grafton stands very high in the opinion of most Men & is look'd upon as equal to the difficult office He fills. — Sr James Gray & the General din'd here lately. I find the former sets out soon for Madrid, & takes your Friend Changuion with him. I should fancy Changuion must appear much better when He imitates Spanish Gravity, than He did when He attempted Italian Grimace. —

I shall intrust this letter to Sutton, who I suppose will soon write to you himself. In the mean time I must inform you that He has been married again above a month, & that He appears (as Dr. Hardinge expresses it) *to find one hole as good as another.* — His Wife seems to be a well meaning good temper'd Woman, nothing striking in her person nor yet ugly. He is not so rapturous as He was with his last Wife, but I believe just as attentive as ever to perform Conjugal Duty, & I fancy They will be happy together. — He is not so wonderfully pleas'd with the Situation He is in, that He would much regret being turn'd out of it; but I hope before that happens his Patron will get him something that will stick by him. —

Ld Chatham is still very lame with the Gout, but I am told in good spirits. — The Wits have call'd him *the Bath Guide*, lately, which you will not understand unless you

have seen a very clever Satire upon Bath
which goes under that Title. — I beg my
Compliments to Mrs. Hamilton and am
always Yours W. Arden

A Mons.r Mons.r Hamilton

a Naples.

Arden March 13th
1767.

Ch M 1.26.1.2

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